



LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI – 600 034
M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
FIRST SEMESTER – NOVEMBER 2024
PIR 1504 – UNDERSTANDING GEOPOLITICS



Date: 15-11-2024

Dept. No.

Max. : 100 Marks

Time: 01:00 pm-04:00 pm

PART – A

(4x 10 = 40 Marks)

Answer any Four of the following in 400-500 words each

1. Define structure and agency in geopolitics and explain their interaction.
2. Describe Mackinder's Heartland theory and explain its contemporary relevance.
3. Trace the normalisation of ties between the United States and China in the 1970s.
4. Examine the role of Oil in shaping 21st century geopolitics with a relevant example from the Middle East.
5. What is BRICS? How does it serve as an alternate forum of the global south?
6. Write short notes on the following arms control agreements
 - a) ABM Treaty
 - b) NEW START

PART – B

(3 x 20 = 60 Marks)

Answer any Three of the following in 1200 to 1500 words each

7. a) Describe the key elements that characterise the theory of sea power. How does Alfred Thayer Mahan explain the rise of Britain as a naval power?

(or)

 - b) Discuss the salience of economic interdependence and sustainable development in the post-cold war era. Supplement your answer through the rise of non-state actors in this period.
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8. a) Analyse the deterioration of ties between the United States and Russia since the Bucharest summit in 2008. How has this intensified since the beginning of the war in Ukraine?

(or)

 - b) Explain the significance of foreign aid in contemporary geopolitics. Highlight its outcome through a case study of a donor country and its respective recipients.
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9. a) Elucidate the role of Middle powers and their importance in International Relations. Explain their significance in shaping global cooperation with an example.

(or)

 - b) How have military revolutions shaped global geopolitics from artillery to nuclear power? What are the key lessons that can be understood by studying them?

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